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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for performing a layout beautification operation on an integrated circuit (IC) layout comprising a plurality of polygons, the method comprising applying a first action to a first portion of the IC layout responsive to determining that a first shape associated with the first action matches the first portion of the IC layout, the first shape comprising at least a first edge and a second edge related according to a defined property, the first shape being configured to match a first type of layout imperfection ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ the second edge being contiguous with and substantially perpendicular to the first edge, and wherein the first shape further comprises:

 a third edge, the third edge being contiguous with and substantially perpendicular to the second edge;

 a fourth edge, the fourth edge being contiguous with and substantially perpendicular to the third edge; and

 a fifth edge, the fifth edge being contiguous with and substantially perpendicular to the fourth edge, wherein none of the first edge, the second edge, the third edge, the fourth edge, and the fifth edge are substantially side-by-side with each other.

Claims 12-32 (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A software program for performing layout beautification on a plurality of polygons in an integrated circuit (IC) layout, each of the plurality of polygons

comprising a plurality of features, the software program comprising:

a first set of instructions for comparing a first shape to the plurality of features in each of the plurality of polygons to identify a first set of matching layout features, the first shape comprising at least a first edge and a second edge related according to a first property;

a second set of instructions for performing a first layout beautification action on each of the first set of matching layout features; and ~~The software program of Claim 32, further comprising~~ a third set of instructions for defining the first shape according to a set of user inputs.

Claims 34-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A software program for performing layout beautification on a plurality of polygons in an integrated circuit (IC) layout, each of the plurality of polygons comprising a plurality of features, the software program comprising:

a first set of instructions for comparing a first shape to the plurality of features in each of the plurality of polygons to identify a first set of matching layout features, the first shape comprising at least a first edge and a second edge related according to a first property;

a second set of instructions for performing a first layout beautification action on each of the first set of matching layout features; and ~~The software program of Claim 32, further comprising~~

a third set of instructions for loading the first shape from across a network.

38. (Currently Amended) A software program for performing layout beautification on a plurality of polygons in an integrated circuit (IC) layout, each of the plurality of polygons comprising a plurality of features, the software program comprising:

a first set of instructions for comparing a first shape to the plurality of features in each of the plurality of polygons to identify a first set of matching layout features, the first shape comprising at least a first edge and a second edge related according to a first property;

a second set of instructions for performing a first layout beautification action on each of the first set of matching layout features; and ~~The software program of Claim 32, further comprising~~

a third set of instructions for defining the first layout beautification action according to a set of user inputs.

39. (Currently Amended) A software program for performing layout beautification on a plurality of polygons in an integrated circuit (IC) layout, each of the plurality of polygons comprising a plurality of features, the software program comprising:

a first set of instructions for comparing a first shape to the plurality of features in each of the plurality of polygons to identify a first set of matching layout features, the first shape comprising at least a first edge and a second edge related according to a first property;

a second set of instructions for performing a first layout beautification action on each of the first set of matching layout features; and ~~The software program of Claim 32, further comprising~~

a third set of instructions for loading the first action from across a network.

40. (Currently Amended) A software program for performing layout beautification on a plurality of polygons in an integrated circuit (IC) layout, each of the plurality of polygons comprising a plurality of features, the software program comprising:

a first set of instructions for comparing a first shape to the plurality of features in each of the plurality of polygons to identify a first set of matching layout features, the first shape comprising at least a first edge and a second edge related according to a first property;

a second set of instructions for performing a first layout beautification action on each of the first set of matching layout features; and ~~The software program of Claim 32, further comprising~~

a third set of instructions for comparing a second shape to the plurality of features in each of the plurality of polygons to identify a second set of matching layout features, the second shape comprising at least a third edge and a fourth edge related according to a second property; and

a fourth set of instructions for performing a second layout beautification action on the second set of matching layout features.

41. (Previously Amended) The software program of Claim 40, wherein the first set of instructions and the second set of instructions are completely executed before the third set of instructions and the fourth set of instructions.

42. (Previously Amended) The software program of Claim 40, wherein the first set of instructions and the second set of instructions are executed concurrently, and wherein comparing the first shape to a selected one of the plurality of features in each of the plurality of polygons is performed before comparing the second shape to the selected one of the plurality of features in each of the plurality of polygons.

43. (Previously Amended) The software program of Claim 40, wherein first action and the second action are incorporated in a lookup table.

Claims 44-54 (Cancelled)